



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK 5

This week we continued in Luke chapter 5 and explored two metaphors used by Jesus to respond to criticism from the religious elite of his time. Jesus used metaphors or parables often to help explain a teaching that was difficult to understand. In this week's passage, Jesus was trying to share how his new teaching would require some radical shifts in thinking. This week, may you be challenged to grasp the good news and commit to hold on to it tightly.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 5.33-35 (ESV)

And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink."³⁴ And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?³⁵ The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days."

- The Pharisees were questioning the practice of Jesus' disciples. They were sure that they had the right way, and the right practice. But Jesus said that there is no need to fast when you are sitting at the table with him. The presence of God is cause enough for celebration! But when you feel that he has left you, fasting may help you feel closer to him. **Have you ever tried fasting from food for a day? Do you have a regular practice of fasting?**
- *Jesus, I long for the fullness of your presence in my life. The original disciples spent time in your presence, let me do the same. Amen.*

TUESDAY: ACTS 13.1-3(NIV)

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

- Fasting was a practice at least among leaders of the early church. In moments of discernment, they heard the Holy Spirit direct them to set apart two men for particular service. The fasting was a part of preparing to hear from God. **What are some of the practices or activities you incorporate when you are needing to hear from God?**
- *God, I am a part of this movement called the church. Lead me into seasons of prayer and fasting and speak to me Lord. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 5.36-39 (ESV)

He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old." ³⁷ And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. ³⁸ But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. ³⁹ And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"

- Jesus seemed to be saying that a person can't just sprinkle in some of his good ideas while holding on to their old way of life. The old ways won't be able to absorb the new, the threads of fabric will not merge and eventually fall apart. **Have you ever tried to add a little something extra to your life when the real change you were looking for would require transformation?** In other words, Jesus explains that a container used for old wine will not be able to effectively hold new wine. **Where do you see evidence that the good news of Jesus is being held in ineffective vessels?**
- *God, I thank you for the good news introduced by your son Jesus Christ. Show me where my wineskins have gone dry. Amen.*

THURSDAY: GALATIANS 5.1 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

- Jesus wanted to free people from the bondage of empty religion. Freedom in him was a result of the message Jesus was sharing with the Pharisees in Luke 5. Here Paul is encouraging young Christians to guard against the traps of slavery. He knew how easy it would be to fall back into old ways, but they were made for freedom. **What old rhythms do you find yourself susceptible to when you are trying to make faithful changes?**
- *Jesus, I claim freedom in your name. Jesus you have set me free. I am free indeed! Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 4.18-19 (ESV)

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

- We have read this passage in recent weeks. It is at the heart of Jesus' mission. He read these words from Isaiah, and declared that they were about him. It was risky for Jesus to claim these words were about to come true and it was dangerous for Jesus to say that they would come true through him. **Are there words or phrases in Jesus' mission statement (Luke 4.18-19) that you feel you are called to participate in?**
- *Spirit of God, fall fresh upon me and illuminate my purpose as a Christ follower. Amen.*

SATURDAY: PSALM 84.10-11 (NIV)

*Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.*

- This psalm declares how wonderful is the presence of God. Adam and Eve knew what God's presence felt like, the disciples of Jesus experienced it too. But most of us can relate to the longing tone in Psalm 84. The presence of God is better than any accomplishment or accolade. **Read through these words again. Are they true for you?**
- *God, I long for your presence and I want to long for it more. Draw me closer to you. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Spend time with the two parables from this week's passage. Use the reflection questions to process your thoughts.

"No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old.

- What does this image seem to be communicating (in your own words)?
- Does this image relate to anything in your daily life? Why or why not?
- If not, what might be a more timely image to communicate the message Jesus seems to be sending?

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